



Consumer Corner

by Illinois Attorney General LISA MADIGAN



Toy Recalls: Ensuring the Safety of Your Children

Recalls of children's products are issued for a variety of reasons, ranging from small parts that can detach and pose a choking hazard, to toys that are coated in lead-based paint. Whatever the cause of a recall, it is vital that dangerous products are removed from children immediately. The following information explains how to use recalls to help ensure the safety of your children's toys.

Q. Recently, it seems as if another toy or children's product is recalled every week. What can I do to make sure the toys and other products my children use are safe?

A. During 2007, close to 150 different toys—amounting to over 38 million individual units—were recalled. In addition, more than 30 juvenile durable products, including items such as cribs and car seats, and numerous clothing products were recalled.

These massive recalls were enough to scare any parent. Because children are particularly vulnerable to dangerous consumer products, people purchasing items for kids are right to be concerned about safety. The ideal situation is to prevent dangerous products from ever reaching our kids in the first place. For this reason, my office, pursuant to the Children's Product Safety Act, requires that Illinois retailers remove dangerous products from store shelves and post recall notices in prominent locations. While these measures help keep dangerous products out of consumers' hands, they are not infallible.

To help consumers shop with confidence and to ensure that dangerous products are kept away from children, my office developed a Safe Shopping Guide, first issued in December of 2007, which provides a photograph and short description of each and every children's product recalled that year. Due to the extraordinary response to the 2007 Safe Shopping Guide, my office will continue to provide this important service by posting to our Web site monthly "Recall Recaps" throughout 2008.

Consumers purchasing items for children can use my office's Safe Shopping Guide to help them make informed purchases. Other measures consumers can take include:

1. Sign up for e-mail notification of all recalled products at www.recalls.gov.
2. Check the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) Web site for recalled children's products at www.cpsc.gov.
3. Call the Attorney General's Product Recall Hotline at 1-888-414-7678 (TTY: 1-800-964-3013) if you have questions or if you see a recalled product being sold in stores.

Illinois Attorney General's Office

Recall Hotline

1-888-414-7678

TTY: 1-800-964-3013

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov